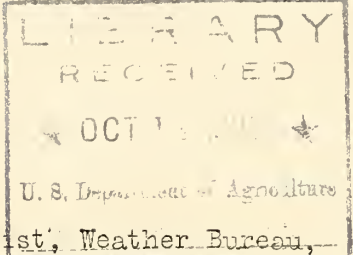


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WEATHER SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER



A radio talk by Mr. J. B. Kincer, senior meteorologist, Weather Bureau, delivered through Station WRC and 31 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, October 2, 1929 at 1:10 p. m. Eastern Standard Time.

Well, folks, we are glad to be with you again to-day, for our usual monthly weather chat. You remember, in "signing off" last month, the hope was expressed that September weather would be better than that experienced during August; this hope, in part at least, has been realized. As usual, September brought a rather mixed supply of weather as affecting agriculture, but nevertheless a decided improvement in most places over that of August. Early in the month the severe drought was largely relieved rather generally east of the Rocky Mountains, especially as affecting the top soil, but, at the same time, the rains in some sections, principally in parts of the Ohio Valley and Lake region, were insufficient.

The moisture was of most benefit in permitting the resumption of preparation for winter wheat seeding and in reviving parched fall pastures. It was helpful, of course, in developing some late crops, such as corn, cotton, and potatoes, but over large areas benefit in this respect was small, or even nil, because the rains came too late. Rain is still needed in some winter wheat sections, principally in parts of the Ohio Valley, Missouri, eastern Kansas, and in Washington and Oregon, but otherwise the month was mostly favorable for plowing and for seeding. In the Northern States, from the upper Mississippi Valley to eastern Idaho, rather generous rains the last few days improved the winter grain situation.

In the central and western Cotton Belt very favorable conditions for picking and ginning prevailed during much of the month, and the work made generally good progress, but the relief from the drought in the west was too late, in general, to materially benefit growing cotton. In the eastern belt, however, the weather was mainly unfavorable, and decidedly so during the past week. In northern Georgia cotton has been badly managed by heavy rainfall; fields were washed, lowlands flooded, and there were many reports of seed sprouting in bolls, some bolls rotting, and staple damaged. Similar conditions prevailed in South Carolina, especially in the north, while the persistent cloudiness, followed by heavy rains, was unfavorable in North Carolina.

During September, farmers in many agricultural regions usually become uneasy regarding the possibility of an early and unwelcome frost. Frosty fall mornings are delightful on the farm, as we well remember from our boyhood days, provided 'Jack' defers his visit until crops have matured. After this we can delight in that universally beloved poem of James Whitcomb Riley's -- "When the frost is on the pumpkin and the fodder's in the shock."

Killing frost occurs in an average year between the 10th and 20th of September over a considerable part of the northern Great Plains, while the average date of its first occurrence in the northwestern Corn Belt is

around October 1. By October 20, on the average, frost has overspread most of the Corn Belt States. It reaches the northern Cotton Belt by November 1, but usually does not extend to Gulf districts until the latter part of November, or the 1st of December.

The great diversity of our climate, with regard to the length of the growing season, or the period between the average date of last killing frost in spring and the first in fall, is emphasized by the fact that, in the more northwestern States, it comprises only about 120 days, or four months, while along the Gulf coast it is more than eight months..

September is the critical frost month in the more northern of our agricultural States, and the danger zone extends into the northern Corn Belt. This year the first rather general frost occurred in the Northwest during the first ten days of September, but in most places the harm was confined to minor crops. By September 17, the frost area had extended considerably, with light deposits as far south and east as northern Kansas, Iowa, and the northern parts of the Ohio Valley, with more or less damage in a good many places, but harm was again confined largely to minor crops and gardens. During the following week, however, or by September 24, more or less severe frosts occurred over a wide area, extending from Pennsylvania, the northern Ohio Valley, and much of Iowa, northward. This frost resulted in considerable harm to late crops and tender vegetation, but at the same time damage was rather spotted in most sections. Much corn was sufficiently mature to escape material injury, but at the same time there was heavy damage to many late fields. The latter part of the month was warmer without further frost, and the corn crop in the principal producing sections is now largely safe, except in Missouri, central and southern Illinois, and southern Indiana. In Iowa fully four-fifths of the crop is now safe from frost.

Now they are about to call "time's up" so it must be good-bye until the first Wednesday in November.